



Week ending: 9/27/04

To: Reading First Districts -Region IV and V
From: Gladys Frantz, Executive Director

Reading First Technical Assistance Center (R-TAC)

Reading First Information

You may access information about the Reading First program and upcoming activities by accessing the website: www.calread.net

Instructional Program Advisor (IPA) for our Districts:

Roberta 'Boots' Nichols is our IPA this year; she will offer program guidance. If your district has need for further knowledge in any area of the HM materials, and would like a presentation, please call our RTAC and we'll be glad to facilitate communications and dates.

RF Coaches Training (last week)

Reading First Coaches Institute in Sacramento last week was very thorough and helpful. I hope all the coaches learned from and enjoyed the training.

Houghton Mifflin Reading Lectura Program

There was an additional session during the Coaches Training (Sept. 20 at 3:30 p.m.) for all involved/interested in the implementation of the HM Lectura to take stock of the issues concerning program implementation and differences. Some questions were answered and some were recorded to research and bring back the answers. Most questions fell into three categories: 1) Assessments in Spanish, 2) Transition models, 3) Materials for ELD in the waived Spanish bilingual classrooms as it relates to CCR compliance. I will send you information and clarifications as I get them.

About Assessment in Spanish

Some of you have asked about the assessment for Theme 1 for HMR Lectura. If you have ordered them, they were mailed last week. To order assessments and to obtain quick info about assessments please email assessments@scoe.net

OARS Training

We will have an OARS Assessment System Training on Friday, October 15th in Salinas City for Round 3 districts. Round 1 or 2 districts are also welcome to participate if they need to train new personnel involved in Reading First - or for a refresher course. No cost but registration is required.

Location: 840-S. Main Street, Salinas, CA 93905 (Salinas City Elementary School District). Time: 9:00 -3:00 p.m.

To register please call Araceli Varela at 510-670-7772 or send her an email. Lunch will be provided.

**Special Education Referral Reduction Program for the Reading First Program
(email sent by CDE)**

The recently passed California State Budget Act provides incentive funding in 2004-05 for Reading First districts in Rounds 1, 2, and 3, to create a plan to use the Reading First program to reduce the number of special education referrals. An application packet for this incentive funding was mailed to Reading First districts September 23, 2004. *(I resent the documents again last Thursday.)*

The final deadline is November 15, 2004; no applications will be considered after this date. Districts will be notified of grant award amendments no later than December 17, 2004. If you have any questions about the Special Education Referral Reduction process, please contact Jeffrey Cohen, Consultant Reading/Language Arts Leadership Office at 916-323-4629 or jcohen@cde.ca.gov.

School District Visits

We are contacting all of you to schedule three RTAC visits to your district this year. I appreciate your responses as I make my plans to meet my responsibilities this year. I'll send you a possible format of the day to include a walkthrough to one or more RF Schools and a debriefing meeting with the RF District team.

Assessment for Intervention

We have received 4 kinds of assessments in our RTAC last week (three more are on the way). If you would like to borrow, please call Araceli at 510-670-7772. We'll send copies or let you borrow the assessment kits for a maximum of three days since other districts are also requesting them and we have one set of each kind.

Future Events

Superintendents' Summit in Manhattan Beach. October 13-14.

To register go to: www.calread.net and click on LEA Sessions. Look at: Upcoming LEA Sessions/Events.

Reading Implementation Center (RIC)

To plan for AB 466 teacher professional development for the HM instructional materials and/or for AB 75 principals' training, please contact Kiyoko Masuda at 510-670-4295.

Add/Remove Names

To help me maintain this list current, please alert me of any changes. Also, send names of district staff you would like to add to this list.

My sincere thanks to all of you for your work and commitment!

Gladys Lazo Frantz, Executive Director
Reading First Technical Assistance Center (RTAC)
Curriculum and Instruction Department
Alameda County Office of Education
313 West Winton Ave. Hayward, California 94544
Phone # 510-670-4235 Fax # 510-670-4207
Email: gfrantz@acoe.k12.ca.us

RTAC Staff:

Araceli Varela, Administrative Secretary- 510-670-7772
Kathleen Montemayor, Administrative Assistant- 510-670-7773
Katie Sedgwick, Program Specialist-510-670-4269